

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UNSYG, AR, BR, CS, UG, VE
SUBJECT: UNSYG VISIT TO ARGENTINA AUGUST 30

REF: USUN 3049

1. ON AUGUST 2 SYG WALDHEIM'S OFFICE DECIDED TO
"POSTPONE" THIS MONTH'S VISITS TO OTHER LATIN
AMERICAN NATIONS EXCEPT ARGENTINA, CITING THE NEED
OF THE SYG TO RETURN TO NYC TO REPORT TO THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA. AS NEAR AS USUN CAN RECONSTRUCT
THE BACKGROUND OF THIS DECISION, THE SYG AS FAR BACK
AS LAST SEPTEMBER ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT
URUGUAY UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO ARGENTINA
AUGUST 30 TO ADDRESS THE OPENING MEETING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT HE
ALSO APPARENTLY ACCEPTED, WITHOUT INFORMING HIS
POLITICAL ADVISORS, INVITATIONS TO VISIT BRAZIL AND
BOLIVIA. AFTER THE VISITS TO ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY
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WERE ANNOUNCED JUNE 19, UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL
BUFFUM AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE SECRETARIAT BECAME
CONCERNED THAT A VISIT TO ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND
URUGUAY (THE THREE THEY HEARD ABOUT FIRST) WOULD
GENERATE SOME CRITICISM OF THE SYG FOR BEING
INSENSITIVE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, AND
INSENSITIVE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS OF THE OAS.

AT FIRST THEY CONSIDERED ADDING ONE OR TWO DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES TO THE ITINERARY, BUT THEN DECIDED TO FINESEE THE PROBLEM COMPLETELY.

2. THE SECRETARIAT TWO WEEKS AGO DELIVERED TO THE ARGENTINE MISSION HERE A LIST OF ABOUT 300 NAMES OF MISSING PERSONS, WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE GOA CLARIFY THEIR STATUS. THE PLAN IS FOR THE SYG TO RAISE THESE SAME NAMES AGAIN IF THE GOA DOES NOT RESPOND BY THE TIME OF HIS VISIT. THE SECRETARIAT HAS PROMISED US A COPY OF THIS LIST, WITH DETAILS.

3. USUN HAS ALSO PASSED ON TO THE SECRETARIAT, AT THE REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG, A REQUEST FOR THE SYG TO INQUIRE INTO THE SITUATION OF DAGMAR INGRID HAGELIN, A MISSING PERSON OF SWEDISH-ARGENTINE NATIONALITY WHO IS A FRIEND OF SOME SWEDISH FRIENDS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S. USUN POUCHED A STATEMENT OF DETAILS OF THE HAGELIN CASE TO EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AUGUST 4, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. WE UNDERSTAND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS ALSO REQUESTING THE SYG TO INQUIRE INTO THIS CASE, AND HAS EXPRESSED TO US THEIR SATISFACTION AT THE US INQUIRY TO THE SYG.

4. USUN REMAINS PERPLEXED OVER HOW TO ESTABLISH CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNSYG. WE BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING ANY VISIT BY THE IACHR TO ARGENTINA SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR HIS TRIP. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, THOUGH THE SYG IS EAGER TO GIVE PRESTIGE TO THE OAS, ANY DIRECT COMMUNICATION WOULD NO DOUBT PROVOKE THE GOA INTO ANGRY REACTION WITHIN OAS CIRCLES AGAINST THE IACHR, AS HAPPENED A FEW YEARGS AGO IN A SIMILAR SITUATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION (VAN BOVEN) TALK TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE STAFF OF THE IACHR (VARGAS) SHORTLY BEFORE THE TRIP TO GET A STATUS REPORT, WHICH VAN BOVEN COULD COMMUNICATE TO THE SYG. IN OUR OPINION, THIS WOULD BE FAR BETTER THAN THE US ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE UN AND THE OAS. LEONARD

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